



Our mission is to support the Redwood City Public Library in cultivating literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.

Fair Oaks Library Reopens Upgrades Complete, Branch Open to Community

Community members and dignitaries braved the heat on June 23 to attend the grand reopening of the Fair Oaks branch library. The library has been closed for almost five months during construction, and everyone was excited to see it open. The upgrades include a teen room with Xbox system and computers, a new interactive Early Childhood Learning Center (shaped as a Farmers Market Truck), improved wireless access, flexibility to move shelves and books for various programs, an adult study center, and numerous outlets where visitors can charge their devices.



Speakers for the day included County Supervisor Warren Slocum, Redwood City Mayor Ian Bain, City Manager Melissa Stevenson-Diaz, Kaiser Permanente Public Affairs Director Stacey Wagner, Latino Community Council Chair Arnoldo Arreola, and Library Director Derek Wolfgram. Mr. Slocum thanked all who helped with the project, including voters who passed Measure A and Measure K. He emphasized that the project represents a joint partnership between county and city, as the county leases the building and the city provides the furnishings. Kaiser Permanente, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Wells Fargo were all major sponsors of the Early Childhood Learning Center. Mr. Arreola acknowledged the magnitude of the



project, saying "This is a state-of-the art library in a community that will truly benefit from it."

After the ceremonial ribbon cutting, guests toured the new library and enjoyed entertainment including a dragon/lion dance and a martial arts performance by Sifu Meng's Kung Fu Academy, Danza Azteca's festival dancing, and children's author Anna Lee Mraz Baeta reading from and auto-graphing her latest book. A raffle and light refreshments ended the day, and the new library features will be enjoyed for many days to come.



Donor Spotlight: Monte Mansir

Monte Mansir has been involved with reading and libraries most of his life. Growing up in Southern California, he always loved reading, and worked at the Long Beach Library in high school and college. After graduating from Long Beach State, he spent two years in the army in Boise, Idaho, where he frequented the library, checking out books to pass the time. When he moved to San Francisco to work for the city and county, he also joined *Friends of the San Francisco Library*. After moving to Redwood City, Mr. Mansir became involved with **Project Read** at Cañada College, which began his connection with the Redwood City Library Foundation.

Living in Redwood Shores, Mr. Mansir was very supportive of the campaign to open the Redwood Shores Library, making a generous donation to the foundation and earning a special plaque on the library wall. He has continued to support the Redwood City Library Foundation through the years and has earmarked a substantial amount for the foundation in his estate trust—a meaningful way to make a difference.



Mr. Mansir said "Libraries have always been important in my life. I saw early on how essential a library is to a community—not just in terms of books, but also serving as a center for community activities." RCLF is very grateful to Monte Mansir for his generous support over the years.

Join Us for a Special Banned Books Week Event!

A Fireside Chat with Jabali Smith
Author of *Slave: A Human Trafficking Survivor Finds Life*
September 23 at the **Downtown Library** from **4 to 5:30 pm**
(Author's Reception at 3 pm)
Tickets Available at www.rclfdn.org

RCLF Celebrates 20 Years Foresight & Vision Were Impetus for Library Foundation

On June 14, seventy people attended a Donor's Recognition Reception in the Downtown Library to honor supporters and celebrate the foundation's accomplishments. It was 20 years ago when Library Director Jane Light approached Georgi LaBerge, a former mayor of Redwood City, with the idea of a foundation to supplement library funds and finance library programs. When results of a feasibility study showed that the community would indeed support a library foundation, Georgi, along with Sandra Cooperman and Jack Grennalch (another former Redwood City mayor) started the Redwood City Library Foundation (RCLF).

Recounting some of their foundation experiences, Georgi, Sandra, and Redwood Shores Library Campaign Co-Chair Rosanne Foust, spoke at the reception.



Former Redwood City Mayors Jim Hartnett and Rosanne Foust

Because Georgi and Sandra had limited fundraising experience, they attended a workshop sponsored by California state libraries to educate themselves. The first foundation board included six members and funded many projects, one of which was raising \$200,000 for training and books for **Traveling Storytime** that ultimately generated 100,000 visits to preschools. Other early projects included the **Hearing Loop**, supporting people with hearing loss, and the **Daddy and Me** program.

Rouslana Yaroslavsky, current foundation executive director, joined the foundation board in 2005 at the start of the major fundraising campaign for the Redwood Shores Library. The foundation board, with Sandra Cooperman as president and Celia LaRiviere as library liaison, pledged to raise \$850,000 for the opening day collection of books and related materials. Georgi LaBerge remembered being contacted by an officer from Oracle who had heard about the new library and, without being solicited, offered a substantial donation. She also compiled a list of ten local Fortune 500 business leaders and wrote to them asking for donations. Pamela and Pierre Omidyar

(founder of eBay) were quick to donate. Sandra Cooperman recalled contacting the CEO of the San Mateo Credit Union, who immediately asked "How much?" Rosanne Foust, campaign chair from 2005 to 2007, said that as word got out more donations, large and small, began to arrive. Redwood Shores residents, who at first were hoping to have a community center built, soon became avid supporters of their new library. Once the cost of the books was raised, the next project was the Redwood Shores Library Interpretive Center, the only one in the area at the time. The Redwood Shores Library opened its doors in 2008.

As Ms. Foust noted, "RCLF began because people cared about our community and wanted our libraries to be more than just a home for books. They envisioned all generations coming together to learn and connect. For me, libraries bring back great memories of my childhood, the educational institutions I attended, and the places I brought my children to check out books and videos that provided a window into the world and all of its infinite possibilities and opportunities. We are so fortunate to have a world-class library system in Redwood City powered by so many, including RCLF."



Library Director Derek Wolfgram and Redwood City Mayor Ian Bain

The foundation board now includes four officers and 14 members, with volunteers on advisory and auxiliary committees. In the past 20 years, the foundation has raised more than \$3 million for materials, events, programs and services such as:

- **Teen Homework Center** in the Downtown Library, providing a safe place, homework help, classes, and technology assistance for teens
- **Fair Oaks Library collection**
- **Early Childhood Learning Centers** in 4 library branches plus **Baby Bay** interactive learning structure in the Downtown Library
- **Annual STEAM community festival**, promoting science, technology, engineering, arts, and math
- **Building home libraries** by providing free books in Spanish and English for families
- **Kids in Partnership** program, teaching volunteer teens how to tutor kids and improve their reading skills

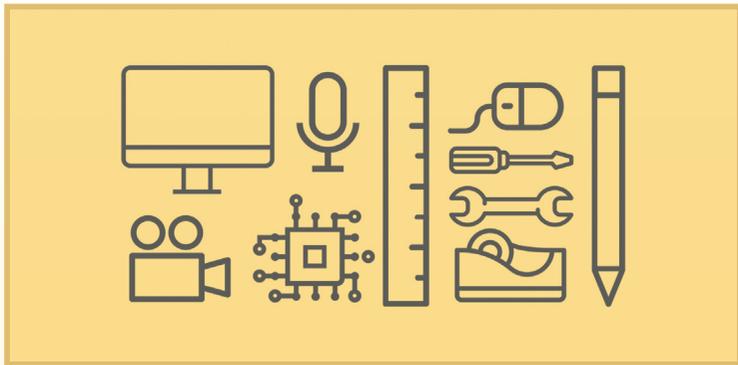


Georgi LaBerge and Sandra Cooperman

RCLF's current programs and initiatives include:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide**
Funds new computers for the Downtown Library Teen Center, as well as mobile wifi hotspots and educational laptops for families to check out and take home
- **Career Online High School in the Library**
Allows adult learners to earn a high school diploma & career certificate
- **Interpretive Center Upgrades - Redwood Shores Library**
Funds improvements to the center, allowing children to learn about the wetlands and the wonders of the SF Bay
- **Writing Cats & Dogs**
Funds a 6-week creative writing and art program for children 8 to 12 that builds awareness about homeless animals while teaching writing and storytelling (collaborates with Pets In Need)

Thank you to our wonderful community for making these many projects possible!



Ready, Set, Make! Library Makerspace On the Way

Funding Needed for Exciting New Project

Imagine a place in the library where everybody can create, design, tinker, build, and prototype. RCLF's next project will allow you to do just that! We are raising funds to create a makerspace lab in the Downtown Library. The goal of a makerspace is to allow users to learn through direct experimentation and group thinking. Makerspaces can include technology such as lasers, 3D printers, sewing machines, soldering irons, coding, robotics, and woodcarving machines, and users are allowed to experiment freely. Items created in makerspaces are typically handmade artistic and artisan pieces for sale or gifts, but large companies such as General Motors and Microsoft also use makerspaces to produce specialized parts, in quantities not practical to produce on an assembly line.

Makerspace fairs are now held all over the world. Beginning around 2006, the "maker movement" grew out of the do-it-yourself culture. Libraries and schools began offering programs and redesigning

spaces to address related interests within their communities. In California, 20 community colleges each received a quarter-million dollars from the state to support makerspaces. The first public library with a makerspace was in Fayetteville, New York.

In a library makerspace, patrons of varying ages can work together, alone, or with library staff on creative projects. These makerspaces give community members access to tools, technology, training, resources, advice, and social connections that might not be accessible otherwise. Public makerspaces are also intended to allow minorities or underrepresented populations, like home-schooled students or people with disabilities, the chance to become involved with technology and fields they may not have previously considered.



The Downtown Library makerspace is in the planning stage now with expected completion by the end of 2019. Planning is under the guidance of Library Director Derek Wolfgram, Library Foundation Executive Director Rouslana Yaroslavsky, Library Division Manager Sarah La Torra, and Library Foundation board member Keith Blackey, who has experience with TechShop, a chain of membership-based makerspace workshops and fabrication studios. The goal of the project is to include 3D printers, at least one laser cutter and hand tools, plus computers with applications required to drive the tools. The makerspace lab will be open to all seven days a week, and the plan is to implement an online scheduling system. The City of Redwood City has approved \$150,000 to remodel library space and create the makerspace lab, but additional funds will be needed for the purchase and servicing of equipment, personnel training, and other expenses. Donate today and help us bring life to a future makerspace that is open to all!

Want to help us save trees and money?
Sign up for our new e-Newsletter today!

Our goal is to free up time and funds in order to support more library programs. To subscribe, visit www.rclfdn.org or send an email to rclf-info@redwoodcity.org requesting that your name be added to the e-Newsletter mailing list.

Save the Dates

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read
September 22 through 29, 2018

Banned Books Week / Fireside Chat with Jabali Smith
Author of *Slave: A Human Trafficking Survivor Finds Life*

Sunday, September 23 • 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
(Author's Reception at 3:00 pm)

Downtown Library • 1044 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City

STEAM Fest on the Square

Saturday, April 27, 2019 • 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Courthouse Square • 2200 Broadway, Redwood City

Wild, Wild West is Back!

Join Us for our 5th Annual Spring Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18, 2019 • 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Devil's Canyon Brewing Co. • 935 Washington St., San Carlos

Ways to Donate

In addition to sending in your donation envelope or using the DONATE button on the RCLF website, here are some year-round programs through which you can support the Library Foundation:

Vehicle Donation to Any Charity (V-DAC)

Turn an extra car, truck, or RV into a tax-deductible donation! Go online at V-DAC.com or call (877) 999-8322 and specify Redwood City Library Foundation as your chosen organization. V-DAC handles everything, so you get your tax deduction and RCLF gets the benefit of your donation.

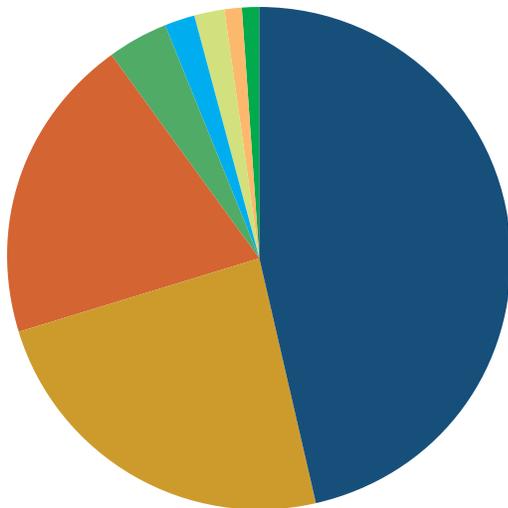
Amazon Smile

Support RCLF every time you shop on smile.amazon.com. You'll find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient experience Amazon, always provides but with an added bonus: Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to a charitable organization of your choice. Select Redwood City Library Foundation as your charity on your first visit to smile.amazon.com, and every eligible purchase thereafter will result in a donation to RCLF. Doesn't get much easier than that!

eScrip

Sign up at eScrip.com and select Redwood City Library Foundation as an organization you want to support. Then shop thousands of eScrip merchants online — as well as local grocery stores and drug stores — all to benefit RCLF!

What Your Donations Supported in 2017-18



■ General Fund	= \$100,791
■ Redwood Shores Interpretive Center	= \$50,675
■ Bridging the Digital Divide	= \$43,000
■ Career Online High School	= \$7,665
■ Early Childhood Learning Center	= \$5,000
■ Writing Cats & Dogs Program	= \$3,600
■ Historic Preservation Month	= \$1,600
■ Traveling Storytime	= \$1,500

TOTAL = \$213,831

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Ex-Officio:

Rouslana Yaroslavsky, *Redwood City Library Foundation*
Derek Wolfgram, *Redwood City Library*



Redwood City Library
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